

Remarks

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action mailed September 16, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendment, and the remarks which follow. No new matter is added with the amendments, which are fully supported by the specification.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, and 12-18 have been amended. Claims 3-5 and 20 have been canceled. New claims 21-23 have been added. Support for new claims 21-23 can be found at least on pages 4-7 of the specification. Claims 1, 2, 6-19, and 21-23 are pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 30, 2003 and March 11, 2005. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 8-13 and 15-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7, 14, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,590,822 to Hwang et al. ("Hwang"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, "a refresh counter for outputting a refresh request signal by performing a counting operation *corresponding to a refresh cycle in response to the refresh flag signal*." (emphasis added). In discussing originally filed claim 2, the Examiner states that Hwang discloses a refresh counter for outputting a refresh request signal by performing a counting operation corresponding to a refresh cycle in response to the refresh flag signal. Specifically, the Examiner points to col. 17, ll. 1-7 and Fig. 15a of Hwang which states "cell data are amplified in connection with a self-refresh counter in Block1. In Block2, even though the self

refresh counter is enabled, an activation is blocked in a manner that controls not a self-refresh address counter but an address. Blocking the activation is performed by blocking a row address applied to a row address buffer or decoder." Absent from this disclosure is any teaching that the refresh counter performs "a counting operation corresponding to a refresh cycle in response to the refresh flag signal." Applicant respectfully submits that Hwang fails to teach or suggest this recited limitation.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hwang. Moreover, Applicant submits that since claims 2, 6, 7, 14 and 19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended claim 1 which is now believed to be in condition for allowance, these claims are also allowable for the foregoing reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 6, 7, 14 and 19. Further, since claim 1 is now in allowable form, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections to claims 8-13 and 15-18.

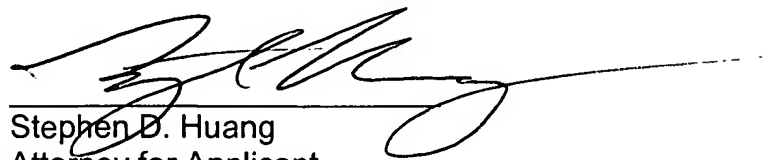
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for applicant at 202-912-2160 for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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